Feb. 28, 1950 G. CHASE 2,499,130

THREAD HOLDER

Filed Oct. 16, 1947

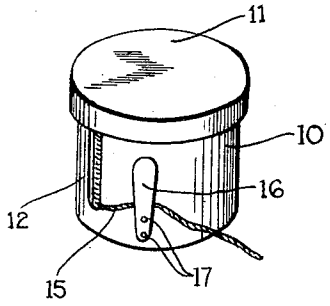


Fig. 1.

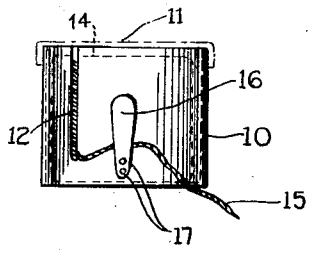


Fig. 2.

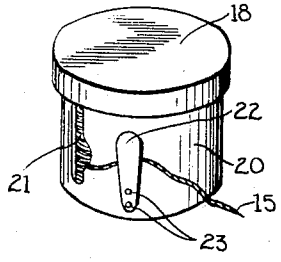


Fig. 3.

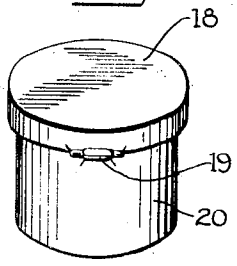


Fig. 4.

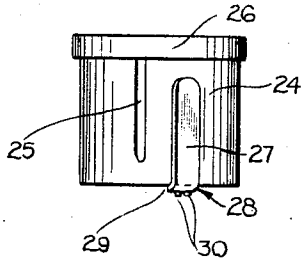


Fig. 5.

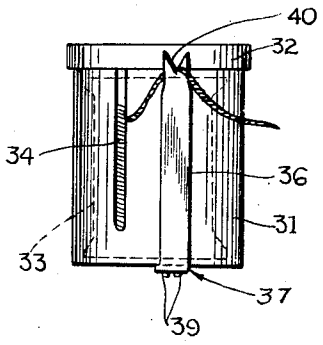


Fig. 7.

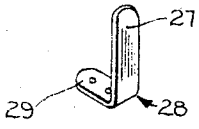


Fig. 6.

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THREAD HOLDER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 242—138)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in holders for tattering, crocheting, darning and other sewing threads, and aims, more particularly, to provide a small and compact handheld holder for a ball, skein, cop or spool of tatting or crocheting thread.

In tatting or crocheting the thread used for same must be handled, say by the aid of the left hand if the person doing the tatting or crocheting is right-handed, in a particular way, and so as to have a free and unimpeded unreeling or unwinding of the thread and yet to provide a sufficiently large although predeterminedly restricted thread loop between the cop, skein or spool and the work being tatted or crocheted.

By the present invention, the holder, which is conveniently cylindrical in shape, may be comfortably held in the hand other than the one engaged in tatting or crocheting, so that the thread may pass freely from the holder by way of an opening in a wall thereof, and yet the loop may be controlled to remain constant or be modified according to desire as the work progresses.

The control just mentioned is afforded by very simple and efficient means, operated by thumb or finger pressure, to prevent feeding of the thread from the holder to the loop, but operable, on release of such pressure, to allow feeding of the thread to be resumed.

A feature of the invention, in connection with the loop control, is that, as a result of the relation of said opening and the loop control means, the thread cannot become inadvertently locked against further feed anywhere on the holder and particularly at said means.

While especially valuable for use in tatting or crocheting, the new holder, which desirably is made of a transparent plastic, so as to be very light in weight and also so that the amount of thread in the same may be instantly noted by mere inspection of the holder without opening the same, is also useful for darning and other sewing threads, whether such thread be wound into a ball or skein, or wound on the familiar wooden spool on which most if not all ordinary thread is wound.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:

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Fig. 1 is a perspective view, showing one now favored embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates the same in elevation, with the removable cover indicated in dot and dash lines as though removed, and with a substantially cubical skein of tatting or crocheting thread inside the holder, as indicated in broken lines.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing a modification.

Fig. 4 shows the holder of Fig. 3, looking toward the rear thereof.

Fig. 5 is a view in elevation, illustrating another modification.

Fig. 6 shows in perspective an element of Fig. 5 constituting the means aforesaid, detached from the holder.

Fig. 7 is an elevational view, illustrating the modification of Fig. 5 applied to a holder of greater length, for accommodating a wooden spool of thread; this view also showing a further feature of the invention.

Referring to the drawing more in detail, and first to Figs. 1 and 2, the holder illustrated comprises a rather short cylindrical hollow main portion 10 in the shape of an open top cup.

Such cup 10 is shown as closable by a bodily removable circumferentially flanged cap 11.

Running down along the length of the side wall of the cup 10 is a slot 12, extending from the top of the cup to near the bottom thereof.

As typifying a ball, skein or like supply of tatting or crocheting thread, a short cylindrical skein of such thread is indicated at 14 in Fig. 2.

After, or before, depositing the skein 14 in the cup 10, a length 15 of the thread is passed through the slot 12, and then the cap 11 is put in place, with its flange sleeving the outside of the cup; the frictional relation between said flange and the cup being such as to hold the cap dependably in place against accidental removal, but so as to permit easy deliberate removal of the cap.

The thread length 15 beyond its issuance from the slot 12 is laid around the cup 10, between it and a leaf member 16, secured near one end, here its lower end, as at 17, to the side wall of the cup. Said leaf member along its free length beyond its securement 17 is somewhat resilient, with a normal set such that the inner face of the major part of said member is spaced far enough from the cup to allow free travel of the thread length 15 through the space between the member 16 and the side of the cup 10.

When tatting or crocheting is to be started, the thread is drawn through the slot 12 from

the skein 14 by pulling on the thread length 15 to provide the desired loop. Then, with the holder held in one hand and so placed therein that the thumb or a finger of that hand lies against the leaf member 16, such thumb or finger is pressed against the leaf member to clamp the thread therebehind to hold the loop.

As the work progresses, and from time to time as needed, such pressure is released, a pull is given to the thread length 15 to enlarge the loop then remaining, and when the loop is once more of proper working length said pressure is restored.

Referring to the form of the invention shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the same type of holder as above described is illustrated, but its cap 18 is shown as hinged at 19 to the cup 20. The slot 21 is exactly like the slot 12, except that the former along its side adjacent the leaf member 22, corresponding to the leaf member 16, is shaped as shown in Fig. 3; thereby to provide a gradual increase in width of the slot 21, from both its opposite ends toward a zone of maximum width intermediate said ends.

As a result of this feature, the thread length 15, regardless of how high or low along the height of the cup 20 said thread length is leaving its skein or the like, will, in response to pull on said thread length from the exterior of the cup 20, partake of a sliding movement lengthwise of the slot 21 to enter its zone of maximum width; and so said thread length will pass behind the leaf member 22 at a point well above any constriction of the lower part of the leaf member 22 against the cup 20 by the securement 23, corresponding to the securement 17.

Referring to the form of the invention shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the main body of the holder, that is, the cup 24, is shown as exactly like the cup 10, as provided with a slot 25 exactly like the slot 12, and as closable by a cap 26, which latter may be the cap 11, and cap 18 or some other practicable type of cap.

Here, however, the leaf member 27 is an integral part of an L-shaped element 28, the bottom limb 29 of which is secured to the bottom of the cup 24, as indicated at 30.

As a result of this feature, regardless of at what point along the length of the straight slot 25 a thread length corresponding to the thread length 15 issues from said slot, such thread length, in passing behind the leaf member 27, must pass behind the same at a portion thereof clamped nowhere against the side of the cup 24.

Referring to the form of the invention shown in Fig. 7, the cup, marked 31, is cylindrical as in the embodiments previously described, but such cup is of increased height, so that, when its removable cap 32 is detached, a wooden spool 33 of say ordinary sewing thread may be housed with sufficient looseness in the cup 31 following replacement of the cap 32.

The slot 34, for issuance of a thread length 35, is exactly like the slots 12 and 25, except longer than the latter and to about the same extent as the cup 31 is longer than the cups 10 and 20. Also, a leaf member 36 like the leaf member 27 is present; that is, the leaf member 36 is part of an L-shaped element 37 like the element 28, and it is secured to the bottom of the cup 31, as at 39.

Said leaf member 36 is shown as so long that its upper free end extends to a height slightly above the bottom of the cap 32 when the latter is in place. At the high level thus marked by the upper end of the leaf member 36, and so

beyond the field of operation of a thumb or finger relative to the leaf member 36 to hold there a loop pursuant to the invention, said leaf member has a notch 40. Within this notch the thread length 35 may be temporarily and undamagedly wedged, when work is interrupted or finished, to prevent inadvertent return of said length into the cup 31 through the slot 34.

The feature of the invention last described, that is, the combination, with the resilient leaf member for manipulation during work as described, of a thread-length wedging means on said leaf member, may be used with any of the illustratively shown embodiments or with any other embodiment of the invention.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desired to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A thread holder comprising a hollow body for containing the thread supply, said body having an open top, a removable cap for closing said top, a slot extending down along said body from its open top to near its bottom for allowing passage therethrough of a length of such thread, and an elongate resilient leaf member secured to said body at one end thereof for then facewisely lying opposite said body, said member having the major portion of its length spaced laterally from said body and extended substantially parallel with said slot to allow free passage of the thread length between the same and said body, whereby on application of pressure to said member while making use of the thread length for tatting, crocheting or like work said thread length may from time to time as required be clamped behind said member to arrest further feeding of the thread, said slot being formed with an enlargement intermediate its ends and on the side of the slot adjacent said member for continuously guiding the length of thread beneath the major portion of said leaf member which is separated from said body.

2. A thread holder comprising a hollow body for containing the thread supply, said body having an open top, a removable cap for closing said top, a slot extending down along said body from its open top to near its bottom for allowing passage therethrough of a length of such thread, and an elongate resilient leaf member secured to said body for then facewisely lying opposite said body, said member being spaced laterally from said slot and extended substantially parallel with said slot, said member being so connected to said body and beyond such connection having such a resilient set as normally to allow free passage of said thread length between the same and said body whereby on application of pressure to said member while making use of said thread length for tatting, crocheting or like work said thread length may from time to time as required be clamped behind said member to arrest further feeding of the thread, there being a means for preventing said thread length from being inadvertently clamped between said member and said body, said means being provided by constituting said member as an upstanding extension from an L-shaped element, the

lower limb of said element being secured to the bottom of said body.

3. A thread holder comprising a hollow body for containing the thread supply, said body having an open top, a removable cap for closing said top, a slot extending down along said body from its open top to near its bottom for allowing passage therethrough of a length of such thread, and an elongate resilient leaf member secured to said body for then facewisely lying opposite said body, said member being spaced laterally from said slot and extended substantially parallel with said slot, said member being so connected to said body and beyond such connection having such a resilient set as normally to allow free passage of said thread length between the same and said body, whereby on application of pressure to said member while making use of said thread length for tatting, crocheting or like work said thread length may from time to time as required be clamped behind said member to arrest further feeding of the thread, there being a means for preventing said thread length from being inadvertently clamped between said member and said body, said means being provided by constituting said member as an upstanding extension from an L-shaped element, the lower limb of said element being secured to the bottom of said body, there also being a wedging means for use at work interruption or completion, for locking said thread length against accidental withdrawal into said body.

4. A thread holder comprising a hollow body for containing the thread supply, said body having an open top, a removable cap for closing said top, a slot extending down along said body from its open top to near its bottom for allowing passage therethrough of a length of such thread, and an elongate resilient leaf member secured to said body for then facewisely lying opposite said body, said member being spaced laterally from said slot and extended substantially parallel with said slot, said member being so connected to said body and beyond such connection having such a resilient set as normally to allow free passage of said thread length between the same and said body, whereby on application of pressure to said member while making use of said thread length for tatting, crocheting, or like work said thread length may from time to time as required be clamped behind said member to arrest further feeding of the thread, there being a means for preventing said thread length from being inadvertently clamped between said member and said body, said means being provided by constituting said member as

an upstanding extension from an L-shaped element, the lower limb of said element being secured to the bottom of said body, there also being a wedging means for use at work interruption or completion, for locking said thread length against accidental withdrawal into said body, said wedging means being a notch on said member.

5. A thread holder comprising a hollow body for containing the thread supply, said body having an open top, a removable cap for closing said top, a slot extending down along said body from its open top to near its bottom for allowing passage therethrough of a length of such thread, and an elongate resilient leaf member secured to said body for then facewisely lying opposite said body, said member being spaced laterally from said slot and extended substantially parallel with said slot, said member being so connected to said body and beyond such connection having such a resilient set as normally to allow free passage of said thread length between the same and said body, whereby on application of pressure to said member while making use of said thread length for tatting, crocheting or like work said thread length may from time to time as required be clamped behind said member to arrest further feeding of the thread, there being a means for preventing said thread length from being inadvertently clamped between said member and said body, said means being provided by constituting said member as an upstanding extension from an L-shaped element, the lower limb of said element being secured to the bottom of said body, there also being a wedging means for use at work interruption or completion, for locking said thread length against accidental withdrawal into said body, said wedging means being a notch on said member at the upper end thereof.

GLADYS CHASE.

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